

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Retired Judge Jim Riley to Give Key Note Address at
Law Day Celebration in Douglas**

Bisbee, Arizona, March 24, 2014. On May 1, 2014, Retired Cochise County Superior Court Judge Jim Riley will be the keynote speaker for Cochise County's 12th Law Day Celebration. The event will be held at the Douglas Service Center at 9:30 a.m. This year's theme is 'American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters' The public is encouraged to attend and to consider the question posed by our speaker.

Law Day 2014 is the culmination of several weeks of activities featuring over 30 educational presentations to K-12 classes all across Cochise County given by the legal and court communities. Again this year, schools across the County are invited to have their students participate in the popular Art and Essay contests to help illustrate the theme Why Every Vote Matters. Winners will be announced at the Law Day celebration.

The court is honored that Judge Riley has agreed to be our Law Day Speaker. He is a Douglas native and served as a Superior Court Judge from 1983 until his retirement in 1996. Prior to his judicial service he served as a prosecutor. Although he is retired, Judge Riley is very active and serves as a court arbitrator and as a hearing officer for property tax appeals and employee disciplinary appeals among his many civic minded activities.

His participation marks a turning point in the court's Law Day program. Traditionally, the program has been held at the historic courthouse in Old Bisbee. Last year, the court adopted its first strategic plan. As part of this plan, the court will work to expand access to programs and services. One of the strategies to meet this goal is to hold the Law Day celebration in different communities throughout the County. This year we are partnering to hold the celebration in Douglas at the Douglas Service Center.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Law Day program, tours of the Douglas Service Center will be led by County staff and volunteers highlighting the services provided by the County from the facility.

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, created by Cochise County employees in 2011 to supplement local food banks, will partner with Law Day this year to "Celebrate Law Day and Outlaw Hunger." Bringing just one can of food to Law Day will go a long way toward helping county employees outlaw hunger. Collections will continue during the month of May and the

public is encouraged to bring nonperishable food items, diapers and toiletries to the Service Center. All donated items will go to the Douglas Food Bank.

The Douglas Service Center is the perfect community venue to celebrate the Law Day as it is rightly an enduring symbol of community pride. The building entered community service in 1903 as the Phelps Dodge Mercantile Store. This facility closed in 1988 and served briefly as a business incubator. After that venture closed the building fell into disuse being used occasionally for special events. Recognizing the huge community significance of this building the City and County joined together to bring this facility back in use. This beautiful facility was rededicated in 2012 and now houses several governmental offices.

About Law Day

Law Day is an annual event, which was originally conceived in 1957 when American Bar Association President Charles Rhynes envisioned a special national day to mark our commitment to the rule of law. The following year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the first Law Day. Law Day was made official in 1961 when Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.